

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 6. (Canceled).

7. (New) An apparatus for triggering restraint devices, comprising:
a control unit; and
crash sensors inside and outside of the control unit;
wherein the control unit is configured to check a crash signal in accordance with a first plausibility signal received from a vehicle sensor outside of the control unit and to trigger the restraint devices as a function of the crash signal and the first plausibility signal.
8. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the apparatus receives the first plausibility signal from a vehicle dynamics control system.
9. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein at least one of the crash sensors includes a side-impact sensor, the control unit configured to plausibilize the crash signal of the side impact sensor in accordance with the first plausibility signal from the vehicle dynamics control system.
10. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the apparatus receives the first plausibility signal from a knock control system.
11. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the knock control system is configured to analyze a structure-borne sound signal for presence of a crash signature and to generate the first plausibility signal as a function of the crash signature.
12. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the apparatus is configured to generate a second plausibility signal via at least one of the crash sensors and to trigger the restraint devices as a function of the crash signal and one of (a) the first plausibility signal and (b) the second plausibility signal.

13. (New) An apparatus for triggering restraint devices, comprising:
control means; and
crash sensing means inside and outside of the control means;
wherein the control means is for checking a crash signal in accordance with a first
plausibility signal received from vehicle sensor means outside of the control means and for
triggering the restraint devices as a function of the crash signal and the first plausibility
signal.